

# North Carolina Heat Report

## August 12-18, 2018

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- ☀ Approximately 166 emergency department visits for heat-related illness were observed
- ☀ Daily maximum heat indices ranged from 87°F to 99.4°F (median = 93.9°F) at Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)

### Season to Date (August 2018)

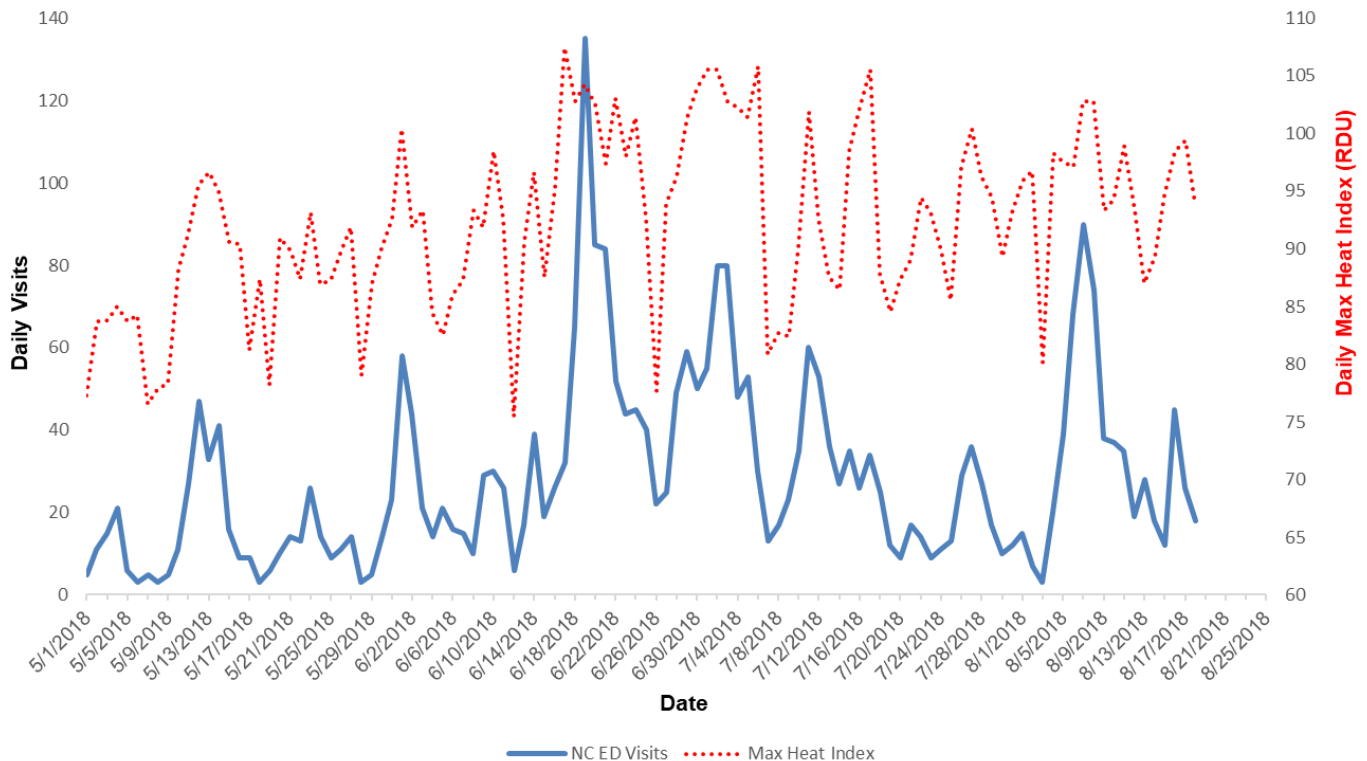
- ☀ Approximately 3,147 heat-related illnesses have been identified in emergency department visit records (figure 1)
- ☀ Common references in emergency department visit notes are for working outdoors and recreation.
- ☀ 81% of illness was among males, mostly aged 25-64 (figure 2)



### Regional Data

- ☀ Most visits were seen in hospitals in the Piedmont (49%) and Coastal (46%) regions
- ☀ 17% of all visits were seen in hospitals in the Sandhills sub-region<sup>1</sup>

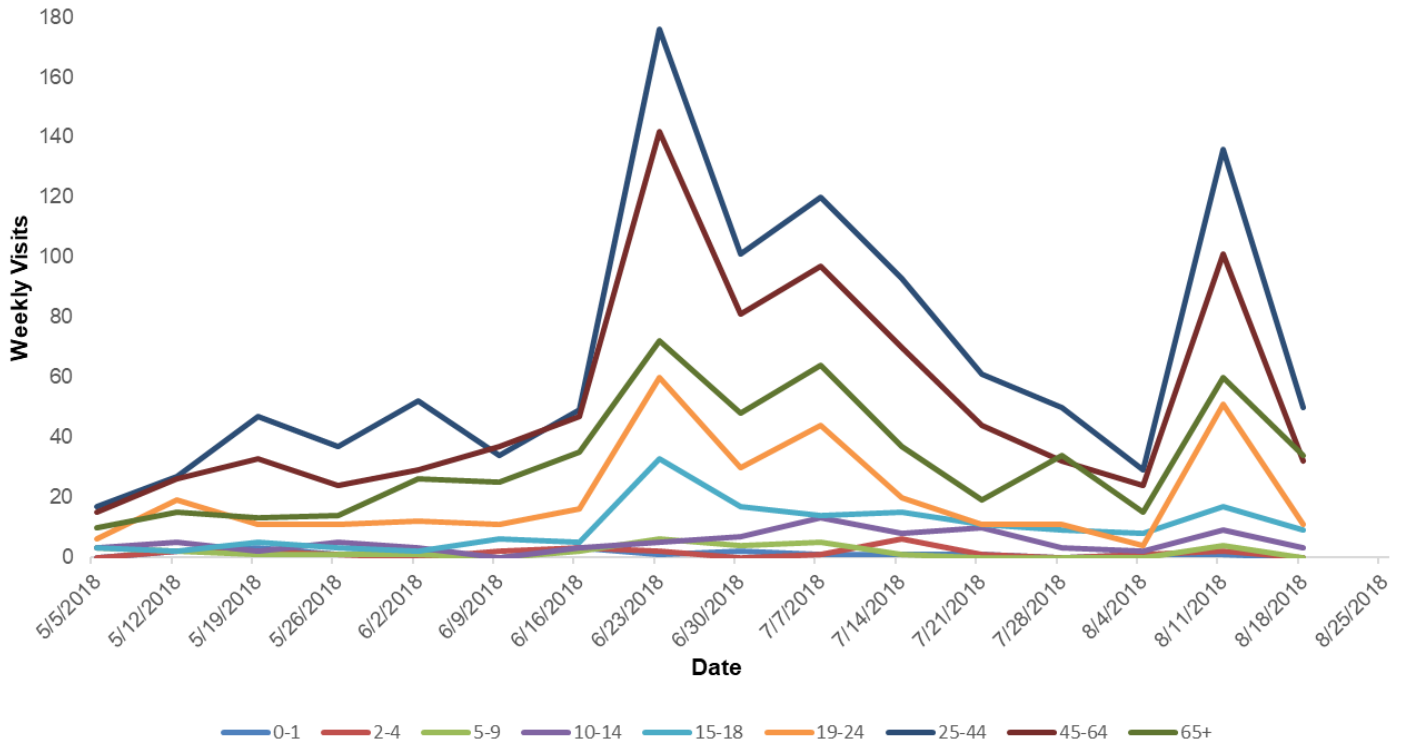
**Figure 1. Statewide Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits and Maximum Heat Index**



Source: NC DETECT Data and State Climate Office at NC State University for Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)

<sup>1</sup>The Sandhills sub-region is comprised of the following counties from the Piedmont and Coastal regions: Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, and Scotland. Data begins 4/29/18. This data is pulled weekly on Tuesday and may vary from other data in the report.

**Figure 2. Statewide Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits by Age Group**



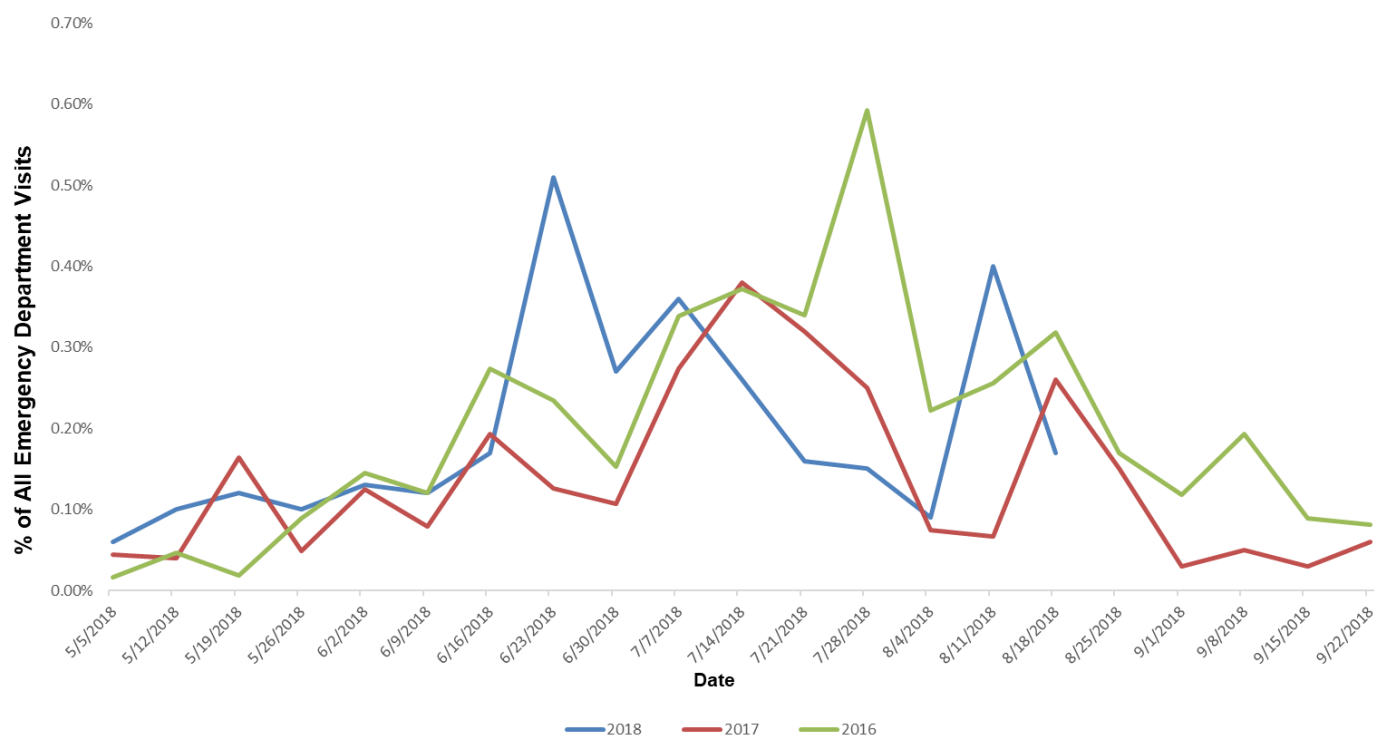
**Table 1.** Emergency department visits for heat-related illness by sex and age group, 8/12/18 to 8/18/18, North Carolina.

|                        | N=157± | (%)* |
|------------------------|--------|------|
| <b>Sex</b>             |        |      |
| Male                   | 127    | (81) |
| Female                 | 30     | (19) |
| <b>Age Group (yrs)</b> |        |      |
| 0-14                   | 8      | (5)  |
| 15-18                  | 19     | (12) |
| 19-24                  | 17     | (11) |
| 25-44                  | 49     | (31) |
| 45-64                  | 51     | (32) |
| 65+                    | 13     | (8)  |

±n may vary from weekly total visits

\*may not total 100

**Figure 3. Statewide Emergency Department Heat-Related Illness (May-September)<sup>2,3</sup>**



Week ending dates displayed are for 2018. Week ending dates may vary by a few days for earlier years.  
<sup>2</sup>Data begins 4/29/18. <sup>3</sup>This information is pulled on Tuesday weekly, and numbers may vary from other data within the report.  
 Source: NC DETECT

NOTE: Emergency department visit records and maximum heat indices were obtained from NC DETECT and the State Climate Office at NC State University, respectively. Heat-related illness is captured through a near real-time keyword search for 'heat,' 'hot,' 'hyperthermia,' 'heat cramp,' 'heat exhaustion,' 'heat stroke,' and 'sun stroke' in chief complaint or triage notes of emergency department records or a diagnosis code for heat-related illness. These figures present an estimate of the number of emergency department visits for heat-related illness. Please contact [lauren.thie@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:lauren.thie@dhhs.nc.gov) for more information.

Disclaimer: The North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT) is an advanced, statewide public health surveillance system. NC DETECT is funded with federal funds by North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH), Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant (PHEP), and managed through a collaboration between NC DPH and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Emergency Medicine's Carolina Center for Health Informatics (UNC CCHI). The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee does not take responsibility for the scientific validity or accuracy of methodology, results, statistical analyses, or conclusions presented. The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee (DOC) includes representatives from the NC DPH, UNC NC DETECT Team and NC Hospital Association.